

Regarding Christmas as sacred to social enjoyments and innocent mirth, we refrain from desecrating it by indulging in political discussions and party appeals.

## CONGRESS.

Yesterday, the Senate, after being a short time in session, adjourned until Thursday.

The House rejected a resolution proposing the election of a Speaker by a plurality vote; made another ineffectual effort to choose a presiding officer, *vice vice*; and adjourned until Wednesday.

## CHRISTMAS.

That season, loved by the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the Christian and the infidel, is at hand. Christmas! How many associations for the old, how many hopes for the young, are suspended upon it. To the first, the interval between Christmas and Christmas seems brief indeed; to the last it seems an age. The great epoch from which the young compute is Christmas day, that day so hung round with pleasant superstitions, so radiant with hopes, so softened with tendernesses. That heart must indeed be cold and hard that does not feel moved and warmed by merry and genial old Christmas. It brings about the reunion of scattered families; it brings holiday, it brings mirth and joyousness. The Christmas bowl, the Christmas dinner, and the Christmas fire, are by no means so fabulous as the much idolized and venerable Christmas Saint who is supposed, mysteriously, to furnish expectant children with the gifts appropriate to the occasion. Throughout all Christendom there is at this moment a great stir among the children. A huge number of toys will be bought and broken, millions of cakes and candies will be eaten, and all diversities of games played, much to the annoyance of scolding old ladies and peevish old gentlemen.

But the season of Christmas has grave, as well as merry aspects. It brings a pause in the diversified business of life. True, there are some branches of industry and enterprise that have to be carried on, as usual, and those engaged in them are denied the recreations that fall to the lot of most of us. The railroads and the steamboats and those connected with them will have no rest; the market people, the vendors of nick-nacks and gew-gaws, and people engaged in various other pursuits, will be kept as busy as they are on ordinary occasions.

We could wish that there was one day in every year when all mankind might enjoy immunity from death, sickness, and sorrow—when every hearthstone might present a picture of happiness and every heart might be free from care. But the wisdom of our Maker has ordained it otherwise. Death, sickness, and sorrow distinguish not between days or seasons. They invade us at all times and at all seasons. They enter alike the rich man's palace and the poor man's hut. Gold cannot bribe, nor can squalid poverty repell. Many a house all swept and garnished for the Christmas, is now tenanted by the dead. Many a heart that beat with joyous anticipations, now realizes a grief too deep for utterance and too poignant for consolation.

Then, again, there are multitudes of the poor who have neither a meal to eat nor a fire to warm them. Christmas, instead of being a day of feasting, is a day of fasting to them. But it is far more pleasant to contemplate the bright aspects of this joyous season which opens upon all Christendom to-day. The spacious halls of the rich and the humble cottages of the lowly will present to-day scenes of mirth and jollity. The old will tell chosen tales of the past, and the young will revel in the happinesses of the present. The rich man will sip his cob webbed wine, the poor man his humble but no less exhilarating drink. In the country, the great Christmas logs will be heaped in profusion on the capacious fire places, the big bowl of egg-nogg will stand on the side-board, the table will groan under the weight of fattened fowls and juicy meats, and the tales of the old and the games and dances of the young will be told and played in honor of old Christmas—merry old Christmas.

No picture could be more pleasant to contemplate than that which will this day be presented in the Southern States. Every slave will enjoy a holiday, and every slave will have his Christmas dinner. The humble cabin will blaze with light, and resound with merry voices. The banjo will give out its enlivening notes, and the flat-foot of the happy negro will keep time to the simple but inspiring music. Could the misguided abolitionist glance, this day, over the happy scenes that the Southern plantations will present, he would feel, and own that Southern benevolence has taken the sting out of slavery, and that the bondman is happier than the freed man. He would feel and own that the poor of the North are far more the objects of commiseration than the sleek well fed, well clad slaves of the South.

If personal antagonisms could be eradicated, if political aspirations could be softened, if the poor could forget their jealousies towards the rich, and if the rich would out of their abundance supply the wants of the poor, happy indeed would be this joyous, yet solemn season.

To our readers, one and all, we wish a happy Christmas.

## Annuitants of the Royal Family.

Annuitants of the Royal Family. The following were among the annuitants paid out of the consolidated fund in the year ending 31st March 1855: Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary, (now Duchess of Gloucester), £16,000; the Trustees of His Royal Highness Leopold George, Prince of Saxe Coburg, (now King of the Belgians), £50,000; Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, £30,000; Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, £6,000; His Royal Highness Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, £20,000; Her Royal Highness the Princess Augusta the Duchess of Mecklenburg Strzelitz, £3,000; His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, £12,000; Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary of Cambridge, £3,000; His Serene Highness the Princess of Mecklenburg Strzelitz, £1,788 4s 4d.

## SUGAR-CANE FROM CHINA.

We would call attention to the following extract from Chambers' Edinburgh Journal, as it embraces peculiar facts in relation to the valuable plant recently introduced into this country from China. A large quantity of the seed was grown last summer at the National Botanic Garden in this city, which is now being distributed by the attentive gentleman in charge there to members of Congress and others, who will disseminate it in all parts of the United States.

"We turn now to the new drink. This it is proposed to produce in a circuitous way from a Chinese plant, known to botanists as the *Holcus saccharatus*, which was introduced into France a few years ago, and into England last year. Chemical analysis shows this plant as containing 184 per cent. of saccharine matter, being a higher proportion than in the case of beet. The sugar is obtained from the juice in the same way as that of the sugar-cane; but it appears that sometimes as much as a third of the total amount of sugar in the juice is not crystallizable, so that under certain circumstances the saccharine matter of the plant cannot be rendered wholly available in the sugar-manufacture. In fact, it is expected that in the actual produce of marketable sugar, the holcus can compete with beet only in the 44th and lower degrees of latitude.

"How, then, is this plant to be made available as a British crop? It appears that, while the saccharine juice produced in cold countries is incapable of profitable conversion into sugar, it is, on the other hand, precisely in the most favorable condition for the distiller. To the difficulty of crystallization is attributed the facility with which the juice enters into fermentation, and the large amount of alcohol it affords compared with the quantity of sugar directly indicated by the saccharometer. Mr. Vilmoren, who has carefully examined the capabilities of this crop, believing that it would be most advantageously cultivated for its alcoholic products, obtained results indicating a slightly higher production of sugar than beet, which, from 40,147 pounds of roots, yields 1927 pounds of sugar per acre. But the difference in alcohol is more important, beet yielding 120 gallons only, while holcus gives 182 gallons—a difference of 60 gallons on the acre; and it is as a drink plant, that holcus therefore must be accepted. Instead of standing up as a rival to beet, it will become a substitute, or rather, supplement, to the wine, which has of late years been so severely threatened with blight.

"In France, the capabilities of the plant have been demonstrated. M. de Beauregard having fermented, by means of the refuse of grapes, a quantity of the juice of the holcus in wine-vats, obtained an alcohol of excellent flavor, which he sent to the market at Marseilles, where it realized the same price as the ordinary alcohols there exposed. Of all substitutes for the vine that have hitherto been tried, Dr. Turbell believes the holcus to be the best, producing an alcohol altogether superior to every other.

"But the holcus has nobler aspirations, and is likely to minister substantially to our intellectual wants. It responds to the cry for rage by a yield of four tons an acre of material for paper-making, after the juice has been extracted. Nor is this all. A writer in the *Gardener's Chronicle* says: 'Attention has been drawn to a novelty of the year, in the shape of a tall dry grass, called *Holcus saccharatus*, of which the most virtuous I find that great expectations are raised.' The Decca sportsmen and officers use it largely, under the name of *joanree*, in preference to the coarse grass or hay obtainable there, in feeding their hunters and chargers, which thrive well upon it; so much so, indeed, that when sent to the coast for racing purposes, a supply of it invariably accompanies them.'

Besides sugar, this plant gives abundance of alcohol, a species of cider, molasses convertible into rum, a valuable dye. The leaves and refuse cane are excellent food for cattle.—(See Patent Office Agricultural Report, 1854, page 219.)

## Salaries of English Bishops.

The Salaries of the Archbishops and Bishops of England are exhibited by the returns of Parliament as follows:

Archbishop of Canterbury, £7,000, or \$185,000	
of York, 10,000, or 50,000	
Bishop of Durham, 5,000, or 25,000	
of London, 14,000, or 70,000	
of Winchester, 14,000, or 70,000	
of Ely, 12,000, or 60,000	
Nine others at average, 3,000, or 15,000	
The rest on an average, 3,000, or 15,000	

For a year and a half past there has been no vacancy on the Episcopal bench, but in the next year and a half there will probably be five vacancies. If one man should be the chief vicar of the Crown for the next eighteen months, on his fall probably devolve the responsibility of selecting almost one-fifth of the whole Episcopacy of England.

## Rehearsal of the French Emperor's Speech.

The Paris correspondent of the Manchester Guardian relates the following anecdote: It is certain that Louis Napoleon calculated admirably the effects of his speech, knew that they ought to be considerable, and was resolved on his own part to leave nothing undone which should assure to his speech its fullest measure of success. An anecdote, the authenticity of which I can vouch for, will show you how determined he was that nothing in so very serious a matter should be left to chance. The great fear was, lest, in so vast a building the sound of the human voice should be altogether lost; and it was predicted that even the enor-mous number of instruments and choruses would have a very small radiance of sound. The Emperor was seriously pre-occupied by this for he knew he was going to speak to all Europe, and that it was necessary all Europe should hear him distinctly. He consulted several men of art on this point, who advised a re-arrangement of the system of the acoustics, suggested the placing of the Emperor and his entourage under the throne, and at stated angles of sound in the building itself. This was done, and those learned in the acoustic science were of opinion that everything was in order. The Emperor, however, was not yet satisfied, and on the night of the 14th-15th, between one and two o'clock in the morning, he showed up in the building, and, accompanied by five or six of his suite, and having appointed a commissary of the Crystal Palace to meet him, he entered the gigantic nave of the building, and posting his followers in different parts of the building, he delivered a loud voice his speech from the throne. The resonance was immense; each hearer in succession assured him of this, and he replied: "Now, then, I am sure of my intentions." You may remember that on the 15th the subject of universal astonishment was the loudness and sonority of the Emperor's voice, which is naturally neither loud nor sonorous. The remark of every man met was, "what a magnificent voice!" "How did he manage to make it so clearly heard in such a space?" &c. I tell you this, because, as I said, I can answer for its absolute truth, and because it shows the extreme importance Louis Napoleon attached to the success of his speech.

## Two Men Over Niagara Falls.

(N. Y. Courier is informed by a gentleman from Chippewa, Canada, that two persons belonging to that village went over the Falls on Friday last. They were out on the river fishing, and, in pursuit of game ventured too far into the current, and were consequently carried over the cataract.

## Congressional.

## THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

## FIRST SESSION.

Saturday, December 23, 1855.

The Senate was not in session to-day.

## House of Representatives.

Mr. BENNETT, of Mississippi, defended the plea of the gentleman from that State, and introduced a resolution, to the effect that the House should not take any action on the matter.

Mr. STANTON, for electing a Speaker by a plurality vote, was taken up, and rejected by a vote of 114 to 107.

Mr. SAPP offered a resolution, that after to-day the House shall meet at 10 o'clock in the morning till the election of a Speaker be effected. Rejected by a vote of 107 to 114.

Mr. KEITT offered a resolution, that the House should not take any action on the matter.

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or covert, for the annexation of Cuba, and approved of the restoration of that part of Oregon which was surrendered by the Polk administration. [Laughter.] He said that if the gentleman from Maryland would accept the substitute, he should vote with him.

Mr. BOOCOCK rose to a point of order, calling attention to the fact, that by the law, a Speaker must be elected, and the members sworn in, before there can be any other business transacted.

Mr. BOYCE asked certain questions of Mr. Banks, relative to the latter's views on the slavery question.

Mr. BANKS replied, that the gentleman (Mr. Richardson) for whom the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Boyce) had been voting, declined giving any answer to questions propounded to him. [Laughter and cries of "Good!"]

Mr. FLORENCE, with a view of enabling gentlemen to celebrate Christmas in a becoming manner, suggested that the House adjourn it adjourn until Thursday next. But no vote was taken thereon.

Mr. BROOKS, of South Carolina, replied to the liberal and good declaration that in the reverse contingency of the House adjourning it adjourn until Thursday next. He wanted those gentlemen to make the issue here, conceiving that the appropriate place for it.

The House then voted on a Speaker, with the following result:

Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts.....	101
Richardson, of Illinois.....	72
Latimer, of Pennsylvania.....	31
Pennington.....	2
Orr.....	2
Campbell, of Ohio.....	1
Foster.....	1
S. S. Marshall.....	1

Whole number of votes.....215  
Necessary to a choice.....108

Mr. NICHOLS offered a resolution, providing for the election of a Speaker by a plurality vote; but it was laid on the table—yeas 116, nays 101.

Mr. ORR moved that when the House adjourn it adjourn until Thursday next.

Mr. GIDDINGS said the House had no power to do so. A majority might come in to-morrow, and rescinding such an order, elect a Speaker.

Mr. ORR's motion was disagreed to; and Wednesday substituted, by a vote of yeas 117, nays 95.

So the House adjourned to the last named day.

Supreme Court of the United States.  
Monday, December 24, 1855.

James R. Doan, esq., of Wisconsin, was admitted an attorney and counselor of this court.

No. 25. The United States, vs. James Mackey, et al., plaintiffs in error, vs. Richard S. Bradley, et al., defendants in error, and concluded by Mr. Chilton for the plaintiffs in error.

No. 26. Richard R. Sessions et al., appellants, vs. John M. Sinton. This cause was argued by Hon. J. J. Crittenden for the appellees, and submitted on a printed argument by Mr. Pike for the appellants.

No. 27. Curtis et al., plaintiffs in error, vs. Therese Petraspin, wife of Victor Feste et al. This cause was argued by Hon. Miles Taylor for the plaintiffs in error, and by Hon. J. P. Benjamin for the defendants in error.

Adjourned until Wednesday, 11 o'clock.

There are now laid up in winter quarters at Chicago two hundred and eighteen steamers and sail craft, representing carrying capacity of nearly a million tons. These ships and steamers all lay with full loads for Eastern ports in the spring.

THE FIRST SHAD.—A correspondent of the Savannah Morning News announces that the first shad of the season was caught by Charles E. Smith, in the Savannah river, on the 7th, in a file net, and was sold for \$45, and served up in South Carolina.

DIED.  
In this city, at 9 o'clock last night, JOHN BRUCE, esq., of Lewis county, Kentucky.

RAPPANNOCK ACADEMY.  
For having determined to discontinue teaching school, offers for Lease or Rent the Rappannock Academy, which he wishes to dispose of for the purpose of erecting a residence, either at the place for forty years. It is situated seven miles below Fredericksburg, immediately on the road between that place and Port Royal. The locality can be secured by none for healthy or healthfulness, is supplied with all necessary buildings, which are in good repair and will accommodate seventy boarders.

Teachers will be kept a boarding school. Address the subscriber at Port Royal, Caroline county, Virginia.

Nov. 27.—THOMAS R. THORNTON.  
NEW BOOKS.—The Heiress of Haughton, or the Mother's Secret. A novel, by the author of "Emily Wyndham," "Ravenscroft," &c. Price 25 cents.

WALKER, or Adventures on the Mosquito Shore, by Samuel A. Bard, with sixty illustrations. Price \$1.50.

ART-HINTS—Architecture, Sculpture, and Painting, by James Jackson Jarvis. Price \$1.25. Just received.

R. FARNHAM.  
Corner Pennsylvania avenue and 11th street.

SCHONENBERG & THUN,  
RIGHTS-CONSULTANTS,  
For the Collection of Claims, the Procurement of Patents, Bounty Lands, and Pensions.

BUREAU OF TRANSLATION  
From the French, Spanish, Italian, and German Languages, and for Topographical and other Drawings.

Nov. 15. JONAS P. LEVY.  
Importer and Dealer.

WINE, LIQUOR, SEGARS,  
AND  
FINE GROCERIES.  
General Commission and Forwarding Merchant.

No. 474 Penn. Avenue, two doors below U. S. Hotel.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C.

STRAW HATS.—We have now opened our Spring supply of Straw Goods, and are prepared to show a full assortment. All our goods are bought for cash, and are prepared to sell at the lowest prices. STEVENSON'S.  
May 3—3rd Sales Room, Brown's Hotel.

PRAYER BOOKS AND BIBLES.—We have a large assortment of Prayer Books and Bibles in all kinds of bindings, the best assortment, perhaps, to be found in the city.

NEW FALL AND WINTER GOODS.  
W. H. STANFORD, Merchant Tailor, No. 485 Pennsylvania Avenue, four doors west of Third street, has returned from New York, and is now engaged in his new and elegant stock of Goods adapted to all winter wear, to which he would respectfully invite the attention of his friends and the public. Returning his thanks for the liberal patronage he has bestowed on him, he would assure all that all diligence and care will be taken to fill all orders in his usual elegant style of fit and finish, at the shortest notice and at the lowest possible prices.

## ADDRESS ISSUED BY THE DALLAS COMMITTEE TO THE DEMOCRACY OF THE UNION.

We are on the eve of another Presidential election. Sharing, as we do, in the solicitudes of the occasion, we cannot be insensible to the importance of timely measures to secure unanimity of purpose and concert of action, in a matter fraught with good or evil to our common country. Our views may differ—but we have a common end. Let us by a candid interchange of sentiment, reconcile conflicting purposes, so far as they exist, and concentrate our entire strength in such an effort as the crisis demands.

The undersigned are a Committee, appointed by Democratic citizens of Philadelphia, to address you in their behalf, upon this important subject. No consideration person will regard the election of a President, as a mere political question, so far as they exist, and concentrate our entire strength in such an effort as the crisis demands.

The approaching Presidential contest will be eminently a struggle for the principles of the Constitution. The disturbing questions are too fresh upon the public mind to require specification. They trench on the Constitution and the principles of the Union, and we may upon the Constitution; for the compromises of the Constitution, so called, are an integral part of that instrument and enter into the national compact as terms of confederacy. The Constitution is the Union! Without it, the States are what the Revolution made them—Independent sovereignties.

To alter, expunge or pervert any of its fundamental principles, to destroy the rights of individual States, is to violate faith, impair the compact consented to, and so far dissolve the obligation upon which the confederacy rests.

The Democratic party is, as it ever has been, the party of the Constitution. The patriotic sense of the country has sustained and defined its position, and it has been a constant construction that party has put upon this instrument, and the administrative measures they have adopted to secure the benefits of it equally to all parts of the country. No essential modification of its provisions enlarging the power of the general government can ever be adopted; nor, if it could be, is it easy to conceive of any other arrangement or distribution of powers, the growth and prosperity of the country would be promoted.

Our first duty, then, as citizens and patriots, is to rally under the banner of the Constitution, and to rally the co-operation of all who appreciate the benefits that instrument was designed to perpetuate. For this purpose, we must first recognize the principles, under whose leadership impending dangers may be shunned and serenely restored.

Among the prominent statesmen of the country, there are doubtless many possessing the qualities requisite for successful statesmanship, whose fidelity to the Constitution is well known. A selection from these would seem easy, but experience has shown that our ambition to select a President, or to elect a President, is not equally available, either before the Conventions of the people, or in a popular canvass. Residing in different parts of the country, local preferences, arising from sectional interests naturally exist, and these, if uncontrolled by higher considerations, it is to be feared may frustrate the common good.

A divided or diminished vote will probably decide the election of a President upon the House of Representatives in Congress. It may result in the election of an opponent, and the consequent evils of a sectional or irresolute administration. Let our preferences, then, be expressed by submission to the will of the greater number, without factions, pettinacy or the disparagement of any, whose pretensions are worthy of serious consideration, by any section of the party. Let our representatives in Convention truly represent the whole party, not fragmentary parts of it, and firmly resolve to sacrifice all differences of minor moment upon the altar of patriotism.

To secure the united action of the whole party, it is indispensable that our candidate should be well known by his public acts to the whole country. The time has gone by when it existed, when the complicated and rapidly augmenting interests of our wide spread confederacy can safely be entrusted to unskilful or unfriendly hands. There is nothing in our experience of the past which will justify a departure, in the present juncture, from the rules of common prudence. The unexampled growth and prosperity of the nation has already excited the jealousy of foreign nations, and given rise to a policy designed to check our progress. To counteract it, we need firmness, caution and wise statesmanship. These, however, though indispensable, are not enough. Our national strength lies in our Union. United as one people, under skilful guidance, the combined power of Western Europe cannot be overthrown, or even materially retarded our progress. Hence our domestic relations are of the first importance. Out of these, as experience shows, spring continually questions of the greatest delicacy, requiring the same qualities in larger measure, as well as comprehensive and correct views of the Constitution.

We repeat, then, our candid appeal to the nation, to elect a President, whose public acts, free from sectional obliquities, and known to be such to the whole country by his public acts.

In George Miffin Dallas, of Pennsylvania, the country has a statesman eminently gifted, as we conceive, with the qualities required at the present crisis.

In presenting him to the Democracy of the Union, we are not conscious of the influence of local prepossession. Certainly it is not our purpose unduly to magnify his merits; least of all to disparage the pretensions of any of his distinguished cotemporaries. Although born and reared in our midst, the voice of the country has already endorsed his name with those of her most favored sons. His public acts entitle him to the nation, the benefits of which are now widely felt. To expatriate upon the political principles of a citizen so well known, or upon his qualifications for the office of President, is quite unnecessary. We may be indulged, however, in a brief notice of his private and public career. It will serve the purpose, if no other, of correcting the misrepresentations of his opponents.

George Miffin Dallas was born in the city of Philadelphia, on the 10th of July, 1792, during the administration of Thomas Miffin, the first Governor of Pennsylvania under the (State) Constitution of 1790. His father, Alexander James Dallas, afterwards Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, was at that time the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, an appointment which sufficiently attests the value of his political principles during the trying times which immediately preceded the adoption of the National and State Constitutions.

The early education of Mr. Dallas was conducted, for the most part, under the eye of his father, in the city of Philadelphia and its neighborhood, with whom he resided, during his minority. A part of the political history of the country is so interwoven with his life, and the administration of Thomas Miffin, and James Madison. The great principles of free government, as embodied in the Federal

and State Constitution, were, at that time, topics of absorbing interest. The leading politicians of that period were men of uncommon power and large experience, conscious of their right to be heard on all questions touching the liberties of the country, and resolute in maintaining it.

The connection of the father of Mr. Dallas with the founders of the Democratic party, gained for the son an easy access, though youthful, to the circle of their influence, whence he gained impressions, which soon ripened into the principles which have ever since controlled his public conduct.

In 1812, soon after the declaration of war by the Congress of the United States against Great Britain, Mr. Dallas joined a company of volunteers with a view to military duty, from which he was recalled for another patriotic employment. Albert Gallatin was about to proceed to Russia, upon the mission which terminated in the treaty of Ghent, and having selected Mr. Dallas as his private secretary, his military engagements were dissolved, and a few days afterwards he left the United States. From St. Petersburg he was despatched by Mr. Gallatin and J. Q. Adams, the Minister of the United States at that Court, to London, on a business connected with the mission, which accomplished he reported to Ghent. During a residence of several months, at the place last mentioned, Mr. Dallas was in daily and intimate intercourse with the distinguished statesmen by whom the negotiations were conducted; an opportunity of which he made the best advantage. On his return to the United States, he was appointed Remitter of the Treasury, an important position, which he held until 1816, when he resigned it and returned to Philadelphia.

His first appearance in the arena of party politics, was on the 4th of July, 1815, within a twelve month after his return from Ghent. On this occasion, by invitation of the Democratic party of Philadelphia, he delivered an Oration, in which he expounded the principles of the party between the United States and Great Britain. In this effort, it was easy to perceive the effects of his political training. Regarding this occasion as the commencement of his career as a politician, his progress hith